



POPULATION

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INTRODUCTION

Use of Population Data in Vital Event Surveillance

Simple counts of information collected on vital certificates are helpful in planning provision of health services, because they document the number of people who experience health events in a particular geographic area.

When questions concerning *comparisons* between groups arise, however, simple counts often are misleading, because they do not account for differences in the composition of the groups. For example, more people die in towns where the majority of the inhabitants are elderly than in towns with a majority of young adults, simply because older people die more often than younger people do. Does this mean, however, that the town with the older population has an abnormally high occurrence of death? To answer questions concerning the magnitude of a vital event and to enhance our ability to compare groups with each other, statisticians calculate rates.

Rates provide a way to compare the number of events that occurred with the number of people in the group for which that event could have occurred. They are calculated by dividing the number of events by the number of people in the group, then multiplying the quotient by some number (such as 1,000 or 100,000) to standardize the calculation so it easily can be compared with rates for other groups. In many instances, census population data are used to estimate of the number of people in the group for which the event could have occurred.

Louisiana population figures provide a frame of reference for examining the vital events that occur within the resident population within a particular year. State population figures are used to calculate the overall rates at which births and deaths occur throughout the state.

Source of Data: Population Estimates

For the years that fall between the ten-year census counts, intercensal population estimates are calculated by the United States Census Bureau and the Research Division, College of Administration and Business of the Louisiana Tech University. These estimates of yearly populations are based on determinations of the number of births, deaths, and migrations into and out of the state on an annual basis.

Intercensal population estimates provided by the United States Bureau of the Census were used to calculate rates in the state summary portion of this report. Intercensal population estimates provided by the Research Division, College of Administration and Business of the Louisiana Tech University were used to calculate rates presented in the Parish and Region tables.

POPULATION ESTIMATES

- Population estimates for 1997 place the number of Louisiana residents at 4,351,769.
- Between 1945 and the mid 1980s, the total population in Louisiana saw a steady increase. In the late 1980s, the state experienced a net population loss, primarily because of migration out of the state. Since that time, population levels have risen to their early 1980s level. Historical estimates of the total Louisiana population are shown in Table P1.

Table P1: Population Counts Louisiana, 1945-1997					
Year	Population	Year	Population	Year	Population
1945	2,429,000	1963	3,377,000	1981	4,283,303
1946	2,556,000	1964	3,446,000	1982	4,352,608
1947	2,579,000	1965	3,496,000	1983	4,395,316
1948	2,596,000	1966	3,550,000	1984	4,400,477
1949	2,634,000	1967	3,581,000	1985	4,408,118
1950	2,697,000	1968	3,603,000	1986	4,406,919
1951	2,769,000	1969	3,619,000	1987	4,344,148
1952	2,842,000	1970	3,644,637	1988	4,288,863
1953	2,866,000	1971	3,710,487	1989	4,252,894
1954	2,883,000	1972	3,761,646	1990	4,217,362
1955	2,946,000	1973	3,788,375	1991	4,241,224
1956	3,032,000	1974	3,820,109	1992	4,273,734
1957	3,115,000	1975	3,886,104	1993	4,290,100
1958	3,155,000	1976	3,950,605	1994	4,314,630
1959	3,208,000	1977	4,014,459	1995	4,338,072
1960	3,260,000	1978	4,068,579	1996	4,350,759
1961	3,287,000	1979	4,137,665	1997	4,351,769
1962	3,345,000	1980	4,205,900		

Source: United States Census Bureau

- Estimates divided by gender, race, and age describe the composition of Louisiana's population. These estimates are used to calculate rates that allow for comparisons of vital events among population subgroups (Table P2).

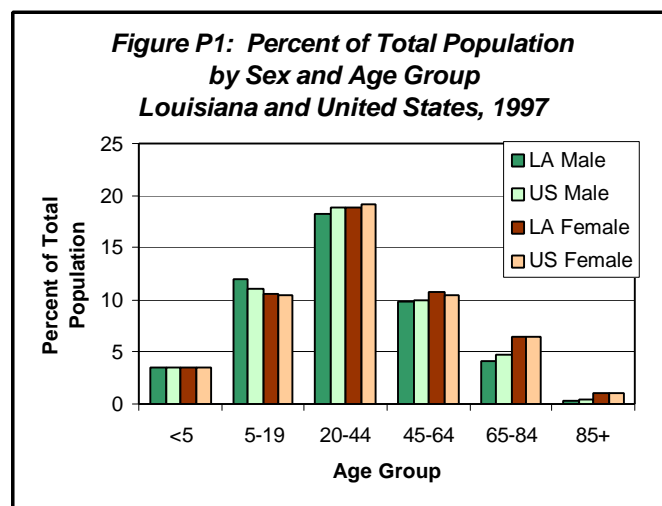
Table P2: Population Counts by Sex, Race, and Age Groups 0-49 Louisiana, 1997											
Sex	Race	Age Group									
		0-4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49
Male	White	92464	95806	101082	109796	99896	98344	102700	118456	117760	102707
	Black	64007	65604	66589	71007	56366	44524	44326	47026	46085	37268
	Other	3381	3171	3359	3541	3412	3001	2870	2908	2665	2316
	Total	159852	164581	171030	184344	159674	145869	149896	168390	166510	142291
Female	White	88256	91640	96305	104742	96774	100675	102847	117355	116580	103679
	Black	62365	63600	65130	72308	61883	50800	51723	56002	55192	46924
	Other	3227	2922	3160	3462	3147	3186	2745	2956	2893	2711
	Total	153848	158162	164595	180512	161804	154661	157315	176313	174665	153314

Source: United States Census Bureau, 1997 Population Estimates

<i>(cont.) Table P2: Population Counts by Sex, Race, and Age Groups 50-85+ Louisiana, 1997</i>										
Sex	Race	Age Group								Total
		50-54	55-59	60-64	65-69	70-74	75-79	80-84	85+	
Male	White	87218	69265	60116	50395	43585	31091	17277	10609	1408567
	Black	26616	20943	17541	15326	11775	8531	4904	4088	652526
	Other	1694	1269	944	596	444	284	184	157	36196
	Total	115528	91477	78601	66317	55804	39906	22365	14854	2097289
Female	White	90957	73790	65379	61277	56586	46626	31557	28741	1473766
	Black	34354	28504	24437	21673	17017	13759	8907	9349	743927
	Other	1894	1358	1075	753	536	329	207	226	36787
	Total	127205	103652	90891	83703	74139	60714	40671	38316	2254480

Source: United States Census Bureau, 1997 Population Estimates

- Subgroup estimates expressed as percent of total population show **the population compositions for the state and the nation are very similar in the distribution of gender and age** (Figure P1, Table P3).
- For both the state and the nation, the largest age group is 20-44 years, and the smallest age group is 85+ years. The United States' population is, as a whole, slightly older than Louisiana's population** (Figure P1, Table P3).

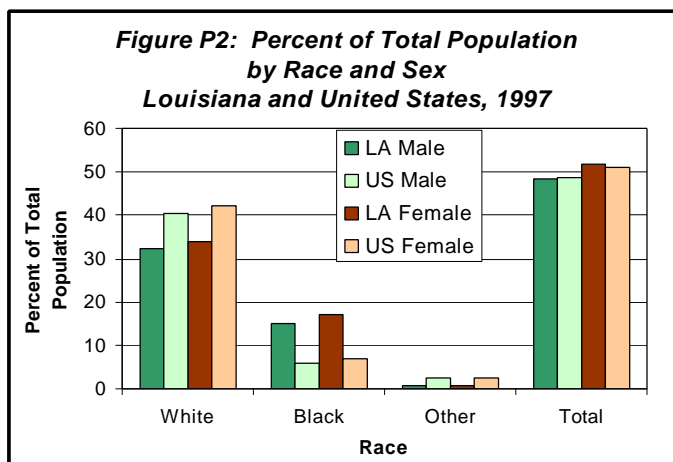


Source: United States Census Bureau, 1997 Population Estimates

<i>Table P3: Percent of Total Population by Sex and Age Group Louisiana and United States, 1997</i>								
Location	Sex	Age Group						All Ages
		<5	5-19	20-44	45-64	65-84	85+	
LA	Male	3.6	11.9	18.2	9.8	4.2	0.3	48.2
	Female	3.5	11.6	19.0	10.9	6.0	0.9	51.8
	Both	7.2	23.5	37.1	20.7	10.2	1.2	100.0
US	Male	3.6	11.1	18.8	10.0	4.8	0.4	48.8
	Female	3.5	10.6	18.9	10.7	6.5	1.0	51.2
	Both	7.1	21.7	37.7	20.7	11.3	1.5	100.0

Source: United States Census Bureau, 1997 Population Estimates

- In Louisiana, blacks comprise 32% of the population. In the United States, blacks comprise less than 13% of the population (Figure P2, Table P4).



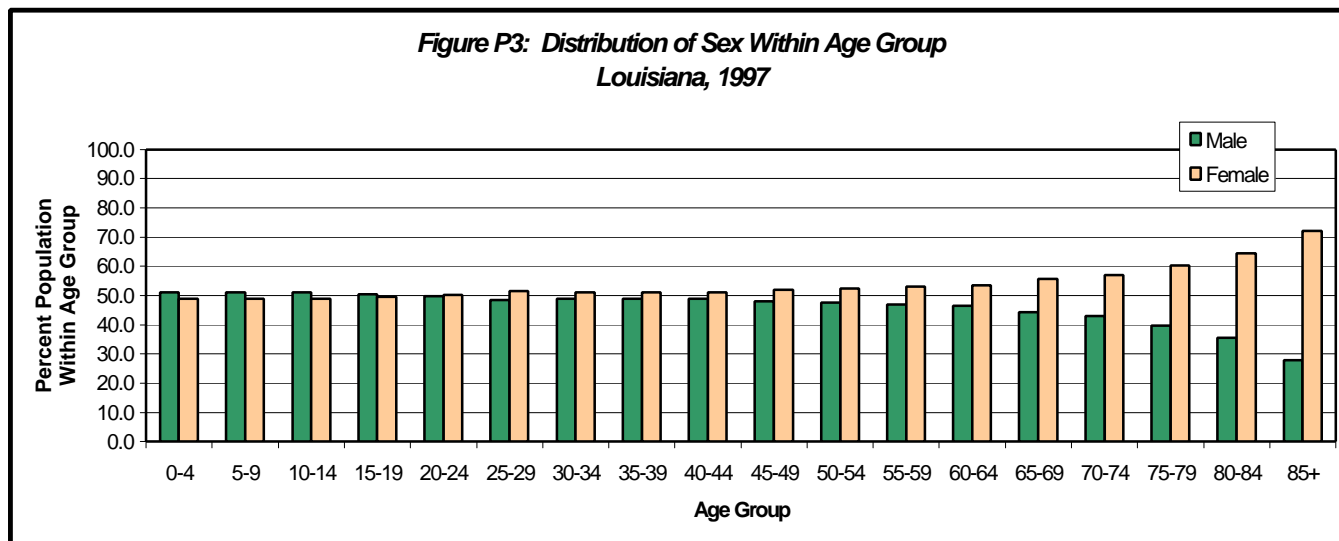
Source: United States Census Bureau, 1997 Population Estimates

**Table P4: Percent of Total Population by Race and Sex
Louisiana and United States, 1997**

Location	Sex	Race			
		White	Black	Other	Total
LA	Male	32.4	15.0	0.8	48.2
	Female	33.9	17.1	0.8	51.8
	Both	66.3	32.1	1.6	100.0
US	Male	40.6	6.0	2.3	48.8
	Female	42.1	6.7	2.4	51.2
	Both	82.7	12.7	4.7	100.0

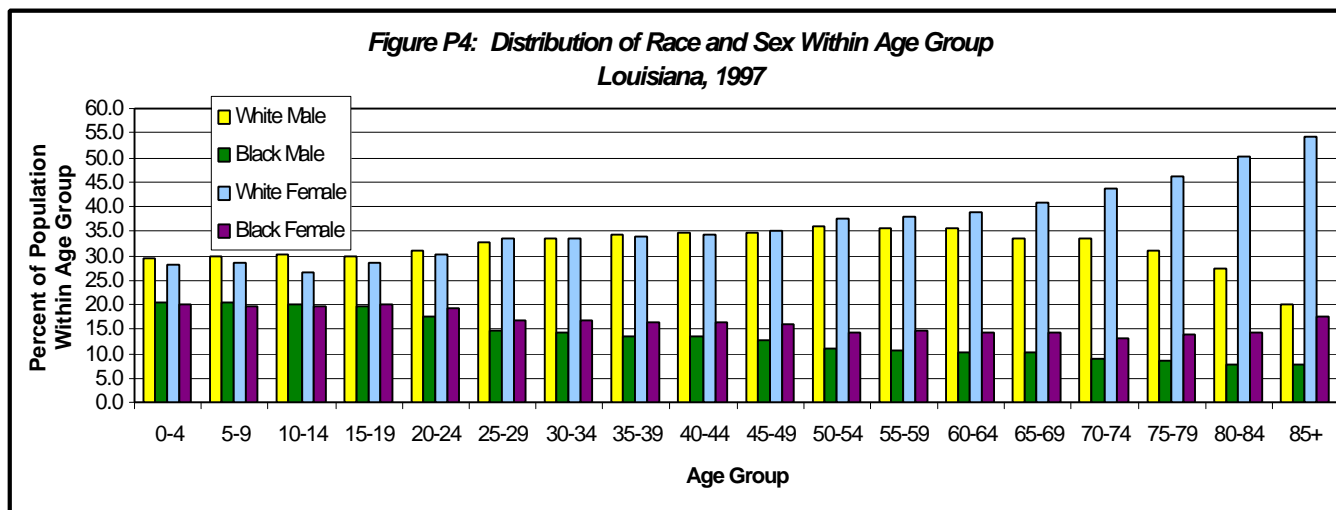
Source: United States Census Bureau, 1997 Population Estimates

- As Louisiana's population ages, the proportion of women to men increases. In age groups less than 44 years of age, the percentages of men and women are nearly equal. In age groups older than 45 years, women increasingly outnumber men. In the 85+ age group, there are almost three times as many women as men (Figure P3, Table P5).



Source: United States Census Bureau, 1997 Population Estimates

- **Within individual age groups, specific race and sex distributions become more disparate as age increases.** In age groups less than 19 years old, similar distributions of race and sex are seen, but among older age groups, whites increasingly outnumber blacks, and females outnumber males. In the 85+ age group, for example, white females outnumber black males by more than seven to one (Figure P4, Table P5).



Source: United States Census Bureau, 1997 Population Estimates

Table P5: Percent of Sex and Race Within Age Groups 0-49 Louisiana, 1997											
Sex	Race	Age Group									
		0-4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49
Male	White	29.5	29.7	30.1	30.0	31.1	32.7	33.4	34.4	34.5	34.7
	Black	20.4	20.3	19.8	19.5	17.5	14.8	14.4	13.6	13.5	12.6
	Other	1.1	1.0	1.0	0.9	1.1	1.0	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.8
	Total	51.0	51.0	51.0	50.5	49.7	48.5	48.8	48.9	48.8	48.1
Female	White	28.1	28.4	26.4	28.7	30.1	33.5	33.5	34.0	34.2	35.1
	Black	19.9	19.7	19.4	19.8	19.2	16.9	16.8	16.2	16.2	15.8
	Other	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.9	1.0	1.1	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.9
	Total	49.0	49.0	49.0	49.5	50.3	51.5	51.2	51.1	51.2	51.9

Source: United States Census Bureau, 1997 Population Estimates

(cont.) Table P5: Percent of Sex and Race Within Age Groups 50-85+ Louisiana, 1997										
Sex	Race	Age Group								Total
		50-54	55-59	60-64	65-69	70-74	75-79	80-84	85+	
Male	White	35.9	35.5	35.5	33.6	33.5	30.9	27.4	20.0	32.4
	Black	11.0	10.7	10.3	10.2	9.1	8.5	7.8	7.7	15.0
	Other	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.8
	Total	47.6	46.9	46.4	44.2	42.9	39.7	35.5	27.9	48.2
Female	White	37.5	37.8	38.6	40.8	43.5	46.3	50.1	54.1	33.9
	Black	14.2	14.6	14.4	14.4	13.1	13.7	14.1	17.6	17.1
	Other	0.8	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.8
	Total	52.4	53.1	53.6	55.8	57.1	60.3	64.5	72.1	51.8

Source: United States Census Bureau, 1997 Population Estimates

Population estimates for each of Louisiana's 64 parishes show the distribution of the total population in the state. Parish-level population estimates are given in Table P6.

Table P6: Population Counts by Parish Louisiana, 1997			
Parish	1997 Estimate	Parish	1997 Estimate
Acadia	57,703	Madison	13,372
Allen	24,079	Morehouse	31,722
Ascension	70,328	Natchitoches	37,896
Assumption	22,866	Orleans	472,948
Avoyelles	41,102	Ouachita	147,177
Beauregard	31,440	Plaquemines	25,965
Bienville	15,707	Pointe Coupee	23,532
Bossier	93,752	Rapides	127,855
Caddo	244,943	Red River	9,873
Calcasieu	178,654	Richland	20,421
Caldwell	10,162	Sabine	23,769
Cameron	9,171	St. Bernard	66,927
Catahoula	10,775	St. Charles	47,308
Claiborne	17,132	St. Helena	9,715
Concordia	20,748	St. James	21,569
DeSoto	25,406	St. John	42,035
East Baton Rouge	396,331	St. Landry	82,705
East Carroll	9,239	St. Martin	46,555
East Feliciana	20,828	St. Mary	57,363
Evangeline	34,397	St. Tammany	180,692
Franklin	22,324	Tangipahoa	95,283
Grant	18,801	Tensas	6,733
Iberia	71,546	Terrebonne	102,197
Iberville	31,149	Union	21,727
Jackson	15,536	Vermilion	51,318
Jefferson	453,160	Vernon	47,229
Jefferson Davis	31,523	Washington	43,736
Lafayette	181,363	Webster	42,607
Lafourche	88,060	West Baton Rouge	20,472
LaSalle	14,081	West Carroll	12,199
Lincoln	42,376	West Feliciana	13,505
Livingston	83,487	Winn	17,195

Source: LA Tech University